



30 April 2020

Principal's Report

Remote learning

It is now nearly three weeks that we have been remote teaching and learning. I know that for many it has been relatively smooth while for others issues with connectivity and hardware have caused some problems. Hopefully these have been smoothed out relatively quickly. Please continue to check the names at the back of the Parent and Student Guide for who to contact if you need support.

I don't know what might happen in the next few weeks and we have planned, as you know, to continue remote learning until the end of Term 2. While there has been much debate in the media about whether or not schools should return, we continue to follow the guidelines from the Department of Education and Training.

Teachers have continued to meet and plan. There have been many emails, meetings and conversations about the best ways to teach remotely, and teachers are certainly trying to respond to the learning needs of students. I know it is particularly difficult for Year 12 students but all teachers are planning the best way to ensure students are not disadvantaged in their learning. Students are not doing this alone as it impacts all Year 12 students and I believe that the processes we have in place will assist the students in their learning at this time.

I certainly miss the interactions of a busy school. As a teacher and Principal, it seems such a contradiction to have only online contact with students and staff. While the online contact is no-where as good, it is pleasing so see students in online classes interacting with their teachers and each other. Hopefully, in the near future, we can actually interact in the corridors, playground and classroom. Until then, stay safe.

In the last newsletter, some students wrote about their remote learning experiences. In this newsletter, there are some comments from teachers. Also, the Year 12 student leaders have written with some advice for other students.

Congratulations

Last Sunday evening the Volleyball Victoria 2019 Annual Affiliate Awards were held. Canterbury Girls' Secondary College was nominated in two categories – Best School and Most Outstanding Teacher. We did not win the school category but Sarah Johns won the teacher award. Her citation read "Sarah has made a significant contribution to volleyball at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College since commencing the program. Sarah has been responsible for driving player numbers and encouraging participation in state and national level events. Sarah has been instrumental in creating a pathway for girls who have elected to play volleyball. Sarah demonstrated leadership when she assisted the girls in raising funds to attend the Volleyball Nationals Schools Cup". Details of all the awards can be found at <https://volleyballvictoria.org.au/2019-affiliate-awards-winners-announced/>.

School Council

At the last School Council meeting the new office bearers were elected. Tim Clarke was elected School Council President, Kevin Hurst was elected Vice-President, Robyn LeGrew was elected Treasurer and Trent Adams was elected Secretary. Thank you to each of those Council members for accepting these roles. The Council currently has a parent vacancy and a Community member vacancy. Information seeking expressions of interest for these positions will be emailed to all parents early next week.

Dr Mary Cannon
Principal

College Patron Dr Judith Slocombe

We are:

A learning community in which members respect each other

We value:

- Success in academic, creative and sporting endeavours
- Individual achievement and contribution to group activities
- The development of self-esteem and integrity
- Initiative, leadership skills, teamwork
- Active participation in our diverse co-curricular program

Teacher Reflections

I am extremely proud of our VCE students for taking to remote learning with a positive mindset and commitment that would be admired across the State. Never a complaint, just gratitude for their teachers. I feel blessed to be a teacher at CGSC.

Pam Barbadonis

Remote learning has meant that I have had to reassess my teaching style. While the students have been, on the whole, amazing and have adapted well, I have missed the face to face contact and interaction.

Debbie Platanas

Overall, the new term has had a positive start. We have all learnt new software such as Microsoft Teams, One Note and screen recording as well as new functions of ClickView and Moodle. I know all teachers have been feverishly preparing new and engaging work for online teaching and learning this term. We have made our practical subjects of drama, art, food tech, textiles, PE and media work over these new platforms successfully. I miss the daily interaction in the classroom and staffroom but feel very fortunate to be in a school where we can still teach face to face, have real timetabled lessons and a platform to easily communicate with colleagues and students. I love hearing about the creativity of teacher 'hooks' to start the lesson, marking the roll, our digital staff shout-out board and daily gratitude check-ins. Canterbury is a wonderful place to teach and I feel very humbled to be part of this amazing community.

Tamara Nicholson

Senior Student Leaders' Reflections

As students ourselves, we understand how you all may be feeling during these tricky and possibly nerve-wracking times. We would like to let you all know that whatever you are feeling is normal. Make sure you are keeping in contact with your friends and family, taking the time to have a break, making sure you are getting lots of fresh air as well as staying active. Taking up a new hobby or working on a skill that you already have is also a great way to keep yourself occupied. This a time for you to work on the things that you enjoy! Continue to stay positive, immerse yourself in something that makes you happy and don't feel afraid to talk to anyone if you are struggling. The chances are, if you are feeling worried about something, whether it has to do with school or things happening at home, someone else will be feeling exactly the same. Here is a little quote that may help you to get through this time:

'You are not alone and we are all going through this together,
It may take time, but things will get better
Stay positive!'

Maya McDonnell and Annabelle Askew Year 12 Cattnach Captains

Through such an unprecedented time it can be easy to focus on the challenges we face. However there is no change in the fact that we're all in this together. I know I have faced some difficulty navigating through these times myself, but there is so much support around you. So don't be afraid to reach out and take it. Little things like keeping busy whether that be through baking or going for a run can



really change the way your day is going. Also try and maintain a routine, it can help reduce some of the stress that may come with online learning and help you feel more productive throughout the term. Most importantly check in on others and see how they're doing. A simple call or text can have a lot more impact than you think, and reinforce that we're in this together as a Canterbury community.

Taskeen Brar
SRC Captain

Although physical interaction with other people is largely reduced now as an essential approach to resolve the epidemic, we are still able to stay connected with the world thanks to the Internet. It's time for us to practice our skills at searching for resources online that are useful and reliable. Why not start with learning a bit more about how vaccine works? Alternatively, what are the differences between the influenza viruses and the COVID-19 coronavirus? You could even research further on how STEM related subjects play such a big role in protecting us in this difficult situation!

If you are short of activities to do at home, have a look at the weekly STEM Challenge run by the Australian National University, which offers brilliant ideas for you to explore. Please stay tuned for more to come from the STEM department that keeps your mind sharp! Any questions or suggestions, feel free to email me through Compass.

Annie Fang
STEM Captain

Going into Year 12, I was very excited to take on this role and also participate in many other activities, that will make my last year at Canterbury Girls' Secondary College memorable. However, I could have never guessed that a pandemic would take over and that schools would have to move onto remote learning. As a Humanities enthusiast, I usually expect evolution and progression, but this... I could have never guessed! As I am disappointed that the Humanities events that were planned for the start of Term 2 have now been unable to take place, I still have to remain grateful for my health and my ability to still access education, which many people unfortunately have lost their chance to do. I am very thankful to be a student at Canterbury Girls', which from my experience so far as a Year 12 student, is able to offer great resources to keep me on track for the school year. I would like to encourage students to try and stay motivated and find ways to still remain productive during these hard times. It is also important to still interact with friends and family through the digital world and keep yourselves content. Make sure to take some time during your day to focus on yourself, this could include exercising or simply just taking a walk outside to make sure you are still getting your Vitamin D. I myself can recommend a few Humanities related activities, such as: learning where countries are situated on a map (for Geography lovers), watching history documentaries on Clickview, reading some mythology, watching Shark tank and highly recommend any legal TV show out there ("Suits" and "How to get away with murder" are my personal favourites). Take care and stay healthy!

Felicia Thanopoulou
Humanities Captain

Going through this period of time, it's become particularly easy to miss basic interactions with friends that we typically have at school. To keep with a routine, something I suggest is to stay in contact with the people close to you, check in more often than usual to ensure your friends are okay, and organise little get-togethers



(virtually of course). It's something that I've found has helped a lot because otherwise, we'd all be physically and emotionally isolated. Stay in touch!

Georgia O'Keeffe
School Captain

Hello Canterbury! I hope you are all doing well during this interesting Term 2, especially with the current situation and the change this online term has undoubtedly brought about. Remember that each new day provides an opportunity to dedicate yourself to a small goal or task, whether it be something creative like some DIY room décor, making a photo album and scrapbooking, or even watching that movie you never got the chance to see. If there ever was a time to learn how to make Fluffy Japanese pancakes or learn how to spell your name in sign language, now is the best time to do so. Bob Ross once said, "Talent is a pursued interest. Anything that you're willing to practice, you can do". I highly recommend that everyone find something that you never had the time to do, and make this month the time you can tick it off the list!

Sarah Hurst
Visual Arts Captain

I think that throughout this whole experience, the most difficult part for everyone has been having to adapt to all the new circumstances. I have found the hardest thing is not having my team sports where I get to see all my friends and have a break from thinking about school. In this time, being active is more important than ever! It is an easy way to boost your mental and physical health and is one of the few things that we are still able to do. It can be walking your dog, going for a run, riding a bike or doing some yoga in front of the TV, anything that works for you. And if the activity you choose gets you out of your room and outside to enjoy some sunshine while it lasts, that is even better. I know it is a little harder to get motivated at the moment, and I have found the best way to keep up my exercise was to find an online program that has helped me feel part of a community. If you can combine this activity with some healthy eating and good sleeping habits, you will be in a good position to get through this period of isolation

Amy Lindeman
Sports Captain

Student News

Japanese Riddles

Japanese Riddles!

日本語のなぞなぞ!



Are you studying Japanese at CGSC, or have some knowledge of Japanese?
Try answering these Japanese riddles!

1日^{にち}に2回^{かい}あるのに、1年^{ねん}に1回^{かい}しかないものって何^{なに}?

What happens twice in a day but only once in a year?

おかしは3じ、いまはなんじ?

Snack time is 3 o'clock, what time is it now?



答え^{こた}は何^{なん}でしょう。わかりますか。

Answers will be shared in the next newsletter...



Alexandra Andrianopoulos
Japanese Teacher

Remote Learning - Instrumental Music

Instrumental lessons at Canterbury Girls' have been proceeding as normal, except in a virtual fashion. Remote learning for instrumental music has posed many challenges, though what the team has found over this period is that it has been a great opportunity for both students and teachers to upgrade technological and learning skills. The lessons and ensemble rehearsals have been interactive and a learning curve for all. We have also created a new page for instrumental music on Moodle where resources for lessons and ensembles have been uploaded.

Music is continuing throughout this time. The students and teachers are looking forward to our next performances, whenever they may be!

All Music Students

Please communicate to your teachers through email or Microsoft Teams. If you are unable to get in touch with your teacher for any reason, please email Tash Anderson at the Music Office at nan@cgsc.vic.edu.au.

Michael Sword
Head of Music